Please add new claims as follows:

--117. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attributes are representative of at least two axes of access to the resources.

118. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 36 wherein the attributes are representative of at least two axes of access to the resources.--

REMARKS

At this time, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents that accompanied the Claim to Priority filed March 28, 2000.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-18, 32-53, 67-71, 74, 117, and 118 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71, and 74 are the independent claims.

Claims 19-31, 54-66, 72, 73, and 75-116 have been cancelled. Claims 1-18, 32-53, 67-71, and 74 have been amended. Claims 117 and 118 are newly-presented. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-18, 32-53, 67-71, and 74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,806 (DeRose, et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 recites, <u>inter alia</u>, ...descriptions of resources...being separate from the resources.... Independent Claims 36 and 71 correspond generally to independent Claim 1 and recite similar features in apparatus and computer readable storage medium forms, respectively. Independent Claim 32 recites, <u>inter alia</u>, ...a description of a resource being separate from the resource. Independent Claims 67 and 74 correspond generally to independent Claim 32 and recite similar features in apparatus and computer readable storage medium forms, respectively. However, Applicant respectfully submits that <u>DeRose, et al.</u> neither teaches nor suggests at least the aforementioned features of independent Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71, and 74.

By the aforementioned feature of independent Claims 1, 36, and 71, a user can browse the description and determine if the resource should be retrieved from storage. In addition, the resource can be updated without updating the description of the resource. Still further, by separating the description from the resource, a structured description can be presented. Thus, increased utility and efficiencies can be realized.

By the aforementioned feature of independent Claims 32, 67, and 74, a resource can be annotated without having to access the resource. In addition, the resource can be updated without updating the description of the resource. Thus, increased utility and efficiencies can be realized.

<u>DeRose, et al.</u> relates to a data processing system and method for generating a representation for and for representing electronically published structured documents and teaches a system in which a user can browse and search an electronic document having a descriptive markup. However, <u>DeRose, et al.</u> teaches that the electronic document includes the descriptive markup. (<u>DeRose, et al.</u>, Col. 7, lines 61-67, Col. 8, lines 41-63,

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Figure 4, items 45-49). In contrast, independent Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71, and 74 recite descriptions (Claims 1, 36, and 71) or a description (Claims 32, 67, and 74) that is/are separate from the resource or resources. Thus, Applicant submits that, for at least this reason, DeRose. et al. does not anticipate independent Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71, and 74.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as the base claims from which they depend and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the present application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Amended) A method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the [said] resources, the [wherein said] descriptions of the [said] resources (i) having [have] descriptor components[, said descriptor components] having attributes representative of [at least two axes of] access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources, and (iii) having [and wherein said descriptions have] links to corresponding [said] electronically-accessible resources, said method comprising the steps of:

reading the [said] descriptions;

displaying items, [wherein] each item being [is] associated with a corresponding [said] descriptor component of a [said read] description read in said reading step that has at least one [said] attribute; and

browsing the [said] descriptions of the resources and their corresponding electronically-accessible resources via the [said] links using the [said] displayed items.

2.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each [said read] description read in said reading step is represented by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the [said] descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants [descendents].

3.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim <u>117</u> [1], wherein one of <u>the</u> [said] axes of access is a table-of-contents classification.

4.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim <u>117</u> [1], wherein one of <u>the</u> [said] axes of access is an index classification.

5.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the descriptions of the resources <u>are</u> [have been] generated using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the [said] descriptions of the resources.

6.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein <u>the</u> [said] attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

7.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the [said] attributes of the descriptor components are a persistent item of the description scheme.

8.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the [said] attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

9.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the [said] attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

10.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the <u>resources comprise</u> [resource is] an item of digital content.

11.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the <u>resources comprise</u> [resource is] an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

12.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the <u>resources comprise</u> [resource is] an electronic device.

13.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein <u>each of</u> the <u>descriptions contains</u> [description of the resource contains] links to identified sections of <u>a</u> [the] resource.

14.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim <u>117</u> [1], wherein <u>the</u> [said] axes of access are determined by rules operating on the description.

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15.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117 [1], wherein the [said] axes of access are determined during the generation of the description of the resource.

16.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 117 [1], wherein the [said] attributes of the [said] descriptor components representative of the [said] at least two axes of access are inferred from the content of the description.

17.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein an [said] attribute of a [said] descriptor component is inferred to be a table of content descriptor if the [said] descriptor component contains a reference to a resource or a section of a resource.

18.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein an [said] attribute of a [said] descriptor component is inferred to be an index descriptor if the [said] descriptor component is not inferred to be a table of contents descriptor.

32.   (Amended) A method of annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the [said] resource, [wherein] the description of the [said] resource being a separate from the resource and having [has] descriptor components[,] each of which [said descriptor component] comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated [the association of a feature of said resource with a] representative value

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for that feature, [and] one or more of the [said] descriptor components including a table of

contents attribute and one or more of the [said] descriptor components including an index

attribute, said method comprising the steps of:

reading one or more [said] descriptions;

displaying a table of contents containing table of contents items, [wherein]

each table of contents item being [is] associated with a corresponding [said] descriptor

component that has a table of contents attribute;

selecting one [said] displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

displaying an index containing index items, [wherein] each [said] displayed

index item being [is] associated with a corresponding [said] descriptor component that has

an index attribute and [that] is associated with the [said] selected table of contents item;

selecting one [said] displayed index item;

associating the [said] selected displayed index item with the [said] selected

table of contents item;

choosing a [said] representative value for the selected index item; and

associating the [said] chosen representative value with the [said] feature which

corresponds to the [said] selected index item,

wherein the [said] chosen representative value and its corresponding feature

provide an annotation of the resource.

33.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein each [said read] description read in said reading step is represented by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the [said] descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants [descendents].

34.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said step of associating the [said] selected display index item is allowed only if the corresponding descriptor of the [said] selected display index item is a valid descriptor for the table of contents item selected for annotation.

35.   (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said step of choosing a [said] representative value is predetermined.

36.   (Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the [said] resources, the [wherein said] descriptions of the [said] resources (i) having [have] descriptor components[, said descriptor components] having attributes representative of [at least two axes of] access to the resources, (ii) being separate from the resources, and (iii) having [and wherein said descriptions have] links to corresponding [said] electronically-accessible resources, said apparatus comprising:

means for reading the [said] descriptions;

means for displaying items, [wherein] each item <u>being</u> [is] associated with a

corresponding [said] descriptor component of a [said read] description <u>read by said reading</u>

<u>means</u> that has at least one [said] attribute; and

means for browsing <u>the</u> [said] descriptions of the resources an their

corresponding electronically-accessible resources via <u>the</u> [said] links using <u>the</u> [said]

displayed items.

37.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus as claimed] as claimed in claim

36, wherein said means for reading <u>the</u> [said] descriptions represents each description by a

tree of descriptor components, and one or more of <u>the</u> [said] descriptor components have

descriptor components as <u>descendants</u> [descendents].

38.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim <u>118</u> [36],

wherein one of <u>the</u> [said] axes of access is a table-of-contents classification.

39.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim <u>118</u> [36],

wherein one of <u>the</u> [said] axes of access is an index classification.

40.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 36, wherein

the descriptions of the resources <u>are</u> [have been] provided using a description scheme as a

template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language

which contains definitions for descriptor components of the [said] descriptions of the

resources.

41.   (Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 40, wherein

the [said] attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

42.   (Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 40, wherein

the [said] attributes of the descriptor components are [a] persistent items [item] of the

description scheme.

43.   (Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 40, wherein

the [said] attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when

required.

44.   (Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 43, wherein

the [said] attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is

associated with the description scheme.

45.   (Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 36, wherein

the resources comprise [resource is] an item of digital content.

46.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 36, wherein

the <u>resources comprise</u> [resource is] an electronic document or resource available over the

World Wide Web.

47.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 36, wherein

the <u>resources comprise</u> [resource is] an electronic device.

48.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 36, wherein

<u>each of</u> the <u>descriptions contains</u> [description of the resource contains] links to identified

sections of the resource.

49.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim <u>118</u> [36],

wherein <u>the</u> [said] axes of access are determined by rules operating on the description.

50.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim <u>118</u> [36],

wherein <u>the</u> [said] axes of access are determined during the generation of the description of

the resource.

51.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim <u>118</u> [36],

wherein <u>the</u> [said] attributes of <u>the</u> [said] descriptor components representative of <u>the</u> [said]

at least two axes of access are inferred from the content of the description.

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52.   (Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 51, wherein

an [said] attribute of a [said] descriptor component is inferred to be a table of content

descriptor if the [said] descriptor component contains a reference to a resources or a

section of a resource.

53.   (Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 52, wherein

an [said] attribute of a [said] descriptor component is inferred to be an index descriptor if

the [said] descriptor component is not inferred to be a table of contents descriptor.

67.   (Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] for annotating an electronically-

accessible resource using a description of the [said] resource, [wherein] the description of

the [said] resource being separate from the resource and having [has] descriptor

components[,] each of which [said descriptor component] comprises a name of a feature of

the resource and an associated [the association of a feature of said resource with a]

representative value for that feature, [and] one or more of the [said] descriptor components

includes [including] a table of contents attribute and one or more of the [said] descriptor

components including an index attribute, said apparatus comprising:

means for reading one or more [said] descriptions;

means for displaying a table of contents containing table of contents items,

[wherein] each table of contents item being [is] associated with a corresponding [said]

descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

means for selecting one [said] displayed table of contents item for the annotation;

means for displaying an index containing index items, [wherein] each [said] displayed index item <u>being</u> [is] associated with a corresponding [said] descriptor component that has an index attribute and [that] is associated with the [said] selected table of contents item;

means for selecting one [said] displayed index item;

means for associating <u>the</u> [said] selected displayed index item with <u>the</u> [said] selected table of contents item;

means for choosing <u>the</u> [a said] representative value for the selected index item; and

means for associating <u>the</u> [said] chosen representative value with <u>the</u> [said] feature which corresponds to <u>the</u> [said] selected index item,

wherein <u>the</u> [said] chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

68.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 67, wherein said <u>reading</u> [read] means represents each [said] description by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of <u>the</u> [said] descriptor components have descriptor components as <u>descendants</u> [descendents].

69.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 67, wherein

operation of said <u>associating</u> means [for associating said selected display index item] is

allowed only if the corresponding descriptor of <u>the</u> [said] selected display index item is a

valid descriptor for the table of contents item selected for annotation.

70.   (Amended) <u>An apparatus</u> [Apparatus] as claimed in claim 67, wherein

operation of said means for selecting one said table of contents item is optional and if not

performed said means for displaying an index displays all [said] index items associated

with all [said] table of contents items.

71.   (Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer

program for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of <u>the</u> [said]

resources, <u>the</u> [wherein said] descriptions of <u>the</u> [said] resources <u>(i) having</u> [have]

descriptor components[, said descriptor components] having attributes representative of [at

least two axes of] access to the resources<u>, (ii) being separate from the resources, and (iii)</u>

<u>having</u> [and wherein said descriptions have] links to corresponding [said] electronically-

accessible resources, said computer program comprising:

   code for reading <u>the</u> [said] descriptions;

   code for displaying items, [wherein] each item <u>being</u> [is] associated with a

corresponding [said] descriptor component of a [said read] description <u>read by said reading</u>

<u>code</u> that has at least one [said] attribute; and

code for browsing the [said] descriptions of the resources and their

corresponding electronically-accessible resources via the [said] links using the [said]

displayed items.

74.   (Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer

program for annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the

[said] resource, [wherein] the description of the [said] resource being separate from the

resource and having [has] descriptor components[,] each of which [said descriptor

component] comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated [the

association of a feature of said resource with a] representative value for that feature, [and]

one or more of the [said] descriptor components includes [including] a table of contents

attribute and one or more of the [said] descriptor components including an index attribute,

said computer program comprising:

code for reading one or more [said] descriptions;

code for displaying a table of contents containing table of contents items,

[wherein] each table of contents item being [is] associated with a corresponding [said]

descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute;

code for selecting one [said] displayed table of contents item for the

annotation;

code for displaying an index containing index items, [wherein] each [said]

displayed index item being [is] associated with a corresponding [said] descriptor

component that has an index attribute and [that] is associated with the [said] selected table

of contents item;

code for selecting one [said] displayed index item;

code for associating the [said] selected displayed index item with the [said]

selected table of contents item;

code for choosing the [a said] representative value for the selected index item;

and

code for associating the [said] chosen representative value with the [said]

feature which corresponds to the [said] selected index item,

wherein the [said] chosen representative value and its corresponding feature

provide an annotation of the resource.

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